

Now, this particular London church has quite a number of historical associations. For instance, the marriage place, in 1652, of Monk, who restored the throne of England to the Stuart dynasty. It was here that the famous Bishop Bonner, who died in the nearby Marshalsea prison, in 1537, as well as of Cocker, the arithmetician, who was executed here, were buried. But it was because of these that all London was interested in the announcement regarding the "crypt" of this church. The crypt was the place where the Church of St. George the Martyr was the place where Dickens' "Little Dorrit" rested after the night of the "Great Fire." It was here that he returned to the Marshalsea prison, and where she was actually married.

In other words, it is famous for what never happened, and not for what really did happen—a tribute to the genius of Dickens. From the crypt, the original south front of the Marshalsea debtors' prison, and at the eastern end of the long roof, the very place where the "Great Fire" broke out, in her time the crypt still held its population of dead, but Dickens was probably not aware of the charnel house beneath the very place where he was buried. That St. George's would have been treated by the novelist as what burial ground off Russell Square, where the "Great Fire" broke out from the iron grate of which Lady Deadlock died. This plague spot also has been swept away, and its site is like the crypt